

Dear FCC,

I support the petition to require VRS interoperability because I am frustrated with the different ways to call people on videophone. The last time I signed up for a VRS service, I found myself wrapped up in so much red tape that I was surprised this hadn't been red flagged by the government (pun intended). I mean, the government is already infamous for wrapping matters in tons and tons of red tape--the government doesn't need a competitor in this.

In all seriousness, I found the contractual limits severely hampered my ability to make the most of the effectiveness of the equipment and software provided, and I feel it is inappropriate of the VRS agencies to attempt to control our usage. Microsoft attempted this, and got hit with a monopoly lawsuit. This should be treated as a similar matter-- you see, by effectively preventing you from using another competitor, they're also effectively enforcing their attempts to gain a monopoly on the market. While I know this is entirely non-profit, there is also something you should be aware of. The majority of those VRS agencies are affiliates, subsidiaries, or actual corporations-- meaning anything they do non-profit-wise will translate ultimately into profit for the overhead-- and because this is a non-profit arena, this provides excellent incentive for them to attempt to exploit the nonprofit loophole to gain a monopoly. Stop them before they succeed. They've already done enough irreparable damage.

It is very important to make everyone equally accessible by setting up one system just like the telephone systems-- we have the option to choose whose equipment we use, who the local carrier should be, who the long distance carrier should be, et centra, et centra. This also should apply to the VRS since it's also a communication service.

Thank you for this opportunity to be heard, and thank you for reading this. I truly hope you will find this worthy of your consideration.

With the utmost respect,
Don Cullen

Freelance Computer Specialist
Advocate/Educator of the Deaf
DonCullen@gmail.com
